

BANNA, Sabir al-

PALESTINE

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## Gunmen Slay 2 at Paris PLO Office As Arab Factional Strife Intensifies

W. Post  
A17  
4 Aug

PARIS (AP) — Two Arab gunmen assassinated the Paris representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization and another PLO employee yesterday in the latest round of a bloody Arab vendetta being waged in world capitals.

The terrorists, who stormed into the PLO's downtown offices armed with pistols and grenades, were captured after firing more than a dozen bullets into Izziddin Qalaq and killing the other PLO employee with a grenade, police said. The second victim's legs were blown off.

Three other members of the office staff were reported wounded.

It was the second such raid in Paris this week and appeared to be part of an underground battle between Yasser Arafat's PLO and a hard-line, anti-Arafat alliance of the Iraqi government and radical Palestinian guerrillas.

In Lebanon, the PLO accused the Iraqis of masterminding the assassination of Qalaq, 40, and vowed "swift retaliation from all directions." The killings came barely 24 hours after the Iraqis threatened "stern reprisals" for a spate of terror attacks, which it blamed on Arafat's guerrillas, on Iraqi diplomats abroad.

The war of terror between Iraq and the PLO began in earnest last month when the Iraqis refused to hand over

guerrilla renegade Abu Nidal, Arafat's bitter enemy in the Palestinian movement.

Recent action has included a raid on the Iraqi Embassy in Paris Monday, in which hostages were taken; an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Iraqi Ambassador in London with a bomb three days earlier, and abortive attempts Wednesday to assassinate the Iraqi consul in Karachi, Pakistan, and the ambassador in Beirut.

At the heart of the conflict is Sabir Banna, better known by his code name Abu Nidal ("Father of the Struggle"), a renegade former leader of Fatah, the largest and strongest PLO group.

He defected to Baghdad after a Fatah guerrilla court sentenced him to death for plotting to assassinate Arafat in 1974, and he has since set up one of the most efficient terror networks in the Arab world, relying heavily on Iraqi subsidies.

Fatah's attacks against Iraqi targets followed Baghdad's refusal to hand Abu Nidal over to the PLO last month.

"We shall force them (the Iraqis) to send him to us crawling on his knees," a Fatah leader vowed.

"There is no power on earth that can save the defeatist leadership of the PLO from Iraq's punishment."

the acts of piracy against Iraqi embassies," retorted the Iraqi government newspaper Al Thawra.

Police said the terrorists captured in Paris yesterday were carrying Jordanian passports identifying them as Abdulkadir Hatem, 25, and Assad Kayad, 21, both said to have been born in Jordan. Police said they had doubts about the authenticity of the passports.

An eyewitness who barricaded himself in an office when the attack began said he heard repeated gunfire and scuffles for several minutes.

Police grabbed one of the suspects as he tried to flee the elegant 19th-century building on Boulevard Haussmann. A squad of policemen wearing flak jackets and carrying carbines then clustered around the entry to the building and officers went into the courtyard and other offices.

A man then burst out onto a balcony and shouted in Arabic to people on a balcony above, "Wahad!" ("One!") apparently meaning there was one terrorist left.

At one point, a man appeared brandishing a pistol and seemingly holding a hostage. Shortly afterward, another man, his hands bound together, was shown at the window to indicate to police the terrorist had been seized. When he was taken to a police van, blood was streaming from his face.

The suspect had been overpowered by security men of the Arab League, which shares its offices in the building with the PLO.

The militantly anti-Israel government of Iraq believes only war can resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute, insists on total dismantling of the Jewish state and supports Palestinian extremists who are trying to topple Arafat because of his comparative flexibility. Arafat is willing to accept coexistence with Israel if negotiations yield a PLO-governed state on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

Guerrilla sources in Beirut had said the two men who attacked the Iraqi Embassy in Paris Monday were members of Arafat's Fatah guerrilla organization.

That raised speculation that the assassination of Qalaq, a moderate who followed the Arafat line, was a reprisal by Palestinians backed by the Iraqi regime.

Qalaq, a French-educated chemical engineer, had been the PLO spokesman in Paris since the bombing assassination of his predecessor, Mahmoud Hamchari, in 1973. Israeli secret agents were alleged to have carried out that killing.

In an interview earlier this year, Qalaq said his office had "lost count of the number of death threats by telephone and letter, and the letter bombs addressed to us."

"What does one life count," he asked, "compared to the struggle of our people?"

"If I fall, others will replace me," he said.